

## Preface

Piet Spaak

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This volume contains 18 papers representing the 62 oral papers and 58 posters delivered at the 7th International Symposium on Cladocera (3–9 September 2005, in Herzberg, Switzerland). In attendance were 120 scientists from 29 countries. According to the traditions of this Symposium, many young researchers were present and contributed actively to the conference. Eight of the papers published here have a PhD student as first author.

Although Cladocera research is dominated by work on *Daphnia*, 5 of the 18 papers presented here show that other Cladocera are important parts of both freshwater and marine ecosystems. However, the majority of the papers illustrate the importance of *Daphnia* as a model organism in ecology and evolution, and its developing use in genetic studies. The genome of *Daphnia pulex* will be published this year, which will create completely new possibilities in the investigation of the molecular basis of morphological, behavioural and life history responses of *Daphnia* to environmental cues. These genetic

tools are also essential in solving the difficult taxonomy of Cladocera. To show how quickly this field is progressing, one of the papers in this volume presents a correction of a molecular method presented and published from the previous Symposium.

This symposium was organized by Piet Spaak of the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag) in Dübendorf. It was held in the scenic location of Herzberg, in the Jura hills above Aarau. The organizer wants to thank his colleagues, Eawag, and the people of Herzberg for their help in making this symposium a success. Furthermore, he wants to thank the 95 reviewers for their comments on the submitted papers for this volume.

During the conference it was decided that the 8th International Symposium on Cladocera will be held in Aguascalientes City, Mexico, in 2008. The organizers will be Dr. Marcelo Silva Briano and Dr. Roberto Rico Martinez. This will be the first time that the Cladocera Symposium crosses the ocean, and it is sure to be a success.

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Guest editor: Piet Spaak  
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Key to the photograph from the Seventh International Symposium on Cladocera, 3–9 September 2005 Herzberg, Switzerland

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